

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00051 081453Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 SAJ-01
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FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7038
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC FOR POLAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 51

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJECT: ANNIVERSARY OF CHOU'S PASSING: MORE WREATHS, LARGER
CROWDS, DEMANDS FOR TENG'S RETURN, AND EXPRESSIONS OF DISTRUST
IN WU TEH.

REF: PEKING 49

1. SITUATION AT 1700 HOURS JANUARY 8 LOCAL.
 2. CROWDS NUMBERING IN THE THOUSANDS POURED IN AND OUT OF
TIENANMEN SQUARE THROUGHOUT THE DAY; BY 1700 UPWARDS OF TEN
THOUSAND PERSONS WERE MILLING AROUND IN THE SQUARE, SETTING
UP NEW WREATHS, POSING FOR PHOTOS, AND LABORIOUSLY COPYING
DOWN THE CONTENTS OF POSTERS, SLOGANS, POEMS, AND GRAFFITI.
MORE THAN 300 WREATHS ADORNED THE AREA IN FRONT OF THE
FORBIDDEN CITY, SPANNING WITH FEW GAPS THE ENTIRE DISTANCE
BETWEEN SUN YAT-SEN PARK AND THE WORKERS' CULTURAL PALACE.
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THE GRANDSTANDS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE
FORBIDDEN CITY BY 1700 WERE NEARLY FILLED WITH GROUPS THAT
HAD COME TO DELIVER WREATHS AND TO GET A BETTER VIEW OF
THE ACTION BELOW. AT NIGHTFALL THERE WAS NO SIGN THAT
THE STREAM OF BICYCLISTS WAS ABATING, AND SMALL PROCESSIONS
FROM PEKING FACTORY AND SCHOOL UNITS CONTINUED TO CONVERGE ON

TIENANMEN SQUARE WITH NEW WREATHS.

3. DESPITE THE MASS OF HUMANITY, THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS OF STEPPED-UP SECURITY OR EVEN ASSIGNMENT OF ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC POLICEMEN. MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC GROUND TO A NEAR HALT AS IT APPROACHED WITHIN THREE BLOCKS OF THE SQUARE FROM BOTH EAST AND WEST. BUT THE MOOD WAS CHEERFUL ACCEPTANCE OF THE VIRTUAL CHAOS.

4. EVERY UNIT IN PEKING -- SERVICE PERSONNEL, FACTORY, SCHOOL, MILITARY, GOVERNMENT -- APPARENTLY HELD A SHORT MEMORIAL CEREMONY FOR PREMIER CHOU AT SOME POINT DURING THE DAY.

5. NEW POSTERS WERE FEW BUT POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT: ONE PROCLAIMED THAT "THE PEOPLE OF THE CAPITAL DO NOT TRUST WU TEH" AND EMPLOYED HOMONYMOUS CHARACTERS TO RENDER WU'S NAME AS "WITHOUT VIRTUE." ON ANOTHER POSTER WHERE THERE HAD EARLIER BEEN OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO "HENCHMEN" AND "ACCOMPLICES" OF THE GANG OF FOUR, SOMEONE PENCILED IN WU TEH'S NAME. SUBSEQUENTLY THE NAME WAS PAINTED IN FOR PERMANENCE.

6. OTHER POSTERS MAINTAINED THE DRUMBEAT CALLING FOR THE EARLY RETURN OF TENG. ONE COUPLET CONTAINED TWO "SUGGESTIONS" ADDRESSED TO "RESPECTED AND BELOVED" CHAIRMAN HUA: THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE FOR TENG'S RETURN TO WORK AND THAT MEMORIAL TABLETS BE ERECTED FOR PREMIER CHOU AND MARSHAL CHU TEH. BENEATH ONE MEMORIAL WREATH TO PREMIER CHOU SOMEONE HAD ATTACHED THE JANUARY 16, 1976 PEOPLE'S DAILY FRONT PAGE PROCLAIMING THAT VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING HAD DELIVERD THE MEMORIAL EULOGY TO CHOU (FACES OF WANG, CHANG, CHIANG AND YAO, WHO HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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ALSO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY, WERE COVERED WITH EXECUTIONER'S MASKS AND THE FACES OF WU TEH AND ALTERNATE POLITBURO MEMBER WU KUEI-HSIEN WERE MARKED OUT WITH BLUE PENCIL LATER IN THE AFTERNOON

).

STILL ANOTHER POSTER CALLED ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO MAKE AND ANNOUNCE A DECISION ON TENG PRIOR TO THE SPRING (LUNAR NEW YEAR) FESTIVAL. AND ANOTHER CALLED ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO ASSIGN TENG TO SOME POSITION (SPECIFICS WERE OBSCURED BY THE SURROUNDING THRONGS)

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7. SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE LINED UP AROUND THE BOOKCOUNTER AT NEW CHINA BOOKSTORE ON WANG FU CHING TO PURCHASE MEMORIAL PHOTO BOOKLET ON CHOU EN-LAI'S LIFE. TWO OF THE PHOTOS -- ALSO DISPLAYED BEGINNING TODAY IN STREETSIDE CASES -- SHOW PREMIER CHOU WITH AMERICANS ANNA LOUISE STRONG AND EDGAR SNOW, VIRTUALLY THE ONLY FOREIGNERS WITH WHOM HE IS PICTURED IN THE SET. OTHER

CHOU MEMORABILIA, INCLUDING THE BOOKLET EDITION OF HIS POLITICAL REPORT TO THE 4TH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, WERE ALSO AVIDLY PURCHASED BY BOOKSTORE CUSTOMERS.

8. USLO OFFICER CURRENTLY IN SHANGHAI REPORTED AT 1200 LOCAL THAT NO OBSERVANCES WERE UNDER WAY IN THAT CITY.

9. HONG KONG PLEASE PASS THIS MESSAGE AND SUBSEQUENT ONES ON SAME SUBJECT TO AMBASSADOR GATES ON HIS ARRIVAL.
GATES

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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